consideration and reiurn of the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2004 as passed by the Lok Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Social Security Schemes under EPFO

*441. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had designated the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) as the nodal agency for administering social security schemes in the country; and

(b) whether the EPFO, as a nodal agency, has been authorised to issue National Social Security Numbers to the workers covered under various social security schemes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Services for accident victims on highways

*442. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NHAI Project office in Rajahmundry has received offers of help from NGOs and others to attend on accident victims and also provide First Aid, etc. on major Highways like NH-5.

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any action has been initiated in this matter;

(c) whether it is a fact that the NHAI has not reacted to such offers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to immediately attend to such offers?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) Project office in Rajahmundry received a request from M/s. Vamsi Hi-Tech. Super Speciality Hospital and Research Institute Pvt. Ltd., Tanuku that they are running free Ambulance Services from Gundugolanu to Sidhantam and Gundugolanu-Nallajarla and provided cell phones to the highway patrolling police team for coordination to save the highway accident victims. The hospital requested that they may be permitted to install information display boards along NH-5 at every 3 km. with name and details of the services of the hospital.

(c) and (d) The proposal could not be considered since the Government's policy and the guidelines of the Indian Roads Congress on the subject do not permit road side display boards which contain the name of a particular hospital as this will tantamount to advertisement. However, complying with the code of practice for road signs of Indian Roads Congress, NHAI has been directed to display informatory road signs of hospital on National Highway near the hospital.

Labour laws on LPG distributors

†443. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Labour laws like State Insurance Corporation and Provident Fund laws have been enforced on LPG distributors; and

(b) the grounds on which these Labour laws have been enforced?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The appropriate Government under Section 1 (5) the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 has been empowered to extend the provisions of the Act to non-factory establishments or class of establishments in consultation with the Employees' State Insurance Corporation and with the approval of the Central Government. Under this provision, the State Governments, who are the appropriate Government, have issued notifications to extend the provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act in areas where the Employees' State Insurance scheme is already implemented to "Shops" employing 20 or more persons for wages.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.